people in the rural areas the Government are going to start a new scheme called 'HOPE';

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed scheme;

(c) whether any of the districts have been identified to implement the scheme on pilot mode; and

(d) if so, the details of districts that has been identified in the State of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) The Government proposes to launch a National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to improve the health condition of the people in the rural areas. There is no scheme envisaged by the name of "HOPE". However, one of the strategies of the Mission is to create a cadre of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) at village levels.

(b) The ASHA would preferably be a daughter-in-law of the village, educated upto class 8th, selected by and accountable to the Gram Panchayat. She is envisaged as an honorary volunteer, who will receive performance based incentive. Her major roles would be to undertake advocacy for promotive and preventive healthcare, convergence with ICDS, motivation for appropriate mother and child healthcare services, especially immunization and institutional delivery and contraception. She would also be the escort to women seeking institutional curative care.

(c) All districts in the States of U.P., M.P., Bihar, Rajasthan, Orissa, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh, Assam and J&K have been identified for implementation of the scheme.

(d) Not applicable.

Splitting of National Institute for Communicable Diseases

1958. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to divide the present National Institute of Communicable Diseases into two institutes;

(b) if so, the details of such plans;

(c) how does Government propose to have an early warning system issued by the NICD for any potential outbreak of diseases in the country.

(d) whether such system is already in place; and

(e) if not, what steps are proposed by Government with regard to NICD?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal to bifurcate the National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi (NICD).

(c) to (e) Under the National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases (NSPCD), administered during the IX Plan, an early warning system was established in 101 districts with the objective of strengthening the surveillance system of communicable diseases and developing capabilities at State and District level so that the district outbreaks can be detected early in order to institute rapid response to avert the large number of morbidities and mortalities. NICD is the nodal agency for the NSPCD.

In order to further strengthen the surveillance mechanism, the Government of India has launched Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme in November, 2004 covering the entire country in a phased manner.

Dental colleges in Karnataka

1959. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that most of the private dental colleges in Karnataka lack proper infrastructure and suffer from deficiency in teaching arrangements;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Dental Council of India in this regard;

(c) whether Government are aware that faculty members visit dental colleges from two to five days only in a month for teaching; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken to curb this system as it would effect the standard of dental education in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) As per the